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thoroughly assimilated either to the climate of Ceylon in the one case, or to that of the West Indies in the other.

To ascertain the races of men best fitted to inhabit and develop the resources of different colonies is a most important inquiry, and one which has hitherto attracted too little attention, both in this and other countries. Had the Government of France, for instance, adverted to the absolute impossibility of any population increasing or keeping up its numbers under an annual mortality of 7 per cent. (being that to which their settlers are exposed at Algiers), it would never have entered on the wild speculation of cultivating the soil of Africa by Europeans, nor have wasted a hundred millions sterling with no other result than the loss of 100,000 men who have fallen victims to the climate of that country. In such questions military returns, properly organized and properly digested, afford one of the most useful guides to direct the policy of the colonial legislator; they point out the limits intended by Nature for particular races, and within which alone they can thrive and increase. They serve to indicate to the restless wanderers of our race the boundaries which neither the pursuit of wealth nor the dreams of ambition should induce them to pass, and proclaim in forcible language that man, like the elements, is controlled by a Power which hath said, "Hither shalt thou come, but no further."

Statistics of the Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Reading. By
JOHN BILLING, Esq., F.S.S., *Architect.*

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 15th February, 1847.]

THE structural arrangements of a town appear to constitute its sanitary condition, more than the circumstances attendant upon its locality. With but few exceptions, nature has made every site which is adapted for the occupations of mankind in towns, also eligible for the health and longevity of the inhabitants. Indeed, it is admitted that towns may be equally healthy with rural districts, and that the arrangements necessary to secure that condition are attained more economically in the former than in the latter.

That the comparative health of towns is dependent mainly upon the draining and paving has been fully proved. All the investigations which have been made have established the fact of their strict correspondence.

It is therefore important in ascertaining the causes of disease and mortality, and in adopting means for their removal, to classify the facts in a tangible form. The circumstances in which the town of Reading has lately been placed, have afforded me an opportunity of investigating and arranging these details. The Corporation of Reading having received from medical practitioners and others assurances that much of the excess of illness and mortality which occurred in the town in the autumn of 1846, was due to defective drainage, instituted a rigid inquiry into the causes which were stated to exist, with a view to obtaining a legislative enactment for their removal. I was directed to make a statistical inquiry into the sanitary condition of the borough, and upon the completion of that inquiry an elaborate work was the result, of which the subjoined Tables are summaries.

Each *House* in the borough was inspected, and its peculiarities arranged in Tables, of which the Form No. 3 affords a specimen. Instead of "Title of Parish," was substituted "Name of Occupier," and "Description of Property."

The Form No. 2 is for "*Courts*;" the Form No. 3 being added to embrace the Houses in Courts, and "Title of Court" being substituted for "Title of Parish."

The Form No. 1 contains the whole of the preceding information, with the addition of that which applies exclusively to "*Streets*," substituting "Title of Street" for "Title of Parish."

The Table entire is the Summary of the whole Borough.

It will be observed that each House, Court, and Street, is thus separately defined and located.

The whole Book, with the separate Summaries of each Court and Street, and the Index, comprises 330 pages.

Summary of the Borough.

FORM NO. 1.—STREETS.					
Title of Parish.	No. of Houses.	Length.	Width.	Length of Main Drain.	Number of Open Gratings.
St. Giles.....	1,448	Feet. 28,033	Feet. ..	Feet. 5,820	31
St. Mary	1,863	23,002	..	3,610	43
St. Lawrence	844	8,517	..	4,498	37
Total of Streets, &c., in the Borough....	4,155	59,552	40 Average.	13,928	111

FORM NO. 2.—COURTS.									
Title of Parish.	No. of Streets	ENTRANCE.			DRAINAGE.				
		One only.	Open from Ground upwards.	Under House.	To Cesspools.	To Covered Drains.	To Surface Gutters.	None.	Badly Paved and Stagnant Refuse.
St. Giles.....	42	35	16	27	7	9	16	10	7
St. Mary	60	48	42	18	12	6	25	13	16
St. Lawrence	27	26	4	23	2	5	15	5	11
Total of Courts, &c., in the Borough....	129	109	62	68	21	20	56	28	34

Title of Parish.	HOUSES.			INHABITANTS.			
	Occupied.	Void.	Rooms.	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Giles.....	230	38	711	241	507	547	1,054
St. Mary	460	39	1,546	492	1,154	1,119	2,173
St. Lawrence ..	195	16	600	206	426	439	865
Total of Courts, &c., in the Borough....	885	93	2,857	939	2,087	2,105	4,192

Summary of the Borough—continued.

FORM NO. 3.—HOUSES.

DRAINAGE.

Title of Parish.	To Cesspools.				To Street Sewers.		To Kennett Streams.	Houses without Drainage.
	Covered from the Atmosphere.		Exposed to the Atmosphere.		To Covered Drains with Open Gratings.	To Surface Gutters, House Refuse, &c., not wholly Rain Water.		
	Water Closets.	Sculle-ries.	Privies	Other kinds.				
St. Giles.....	118	222	871	202	154	140	211	943
St. Mary	83	470	1,008	129	147	86	78	1,552
St. Lawrence	64	112	468	53	159	91	98	496
Total of Houses, &c., in the Borough....	265	804	2,347	384	460	317	387	2,991

Title of Parish.	WATER.			VENTILATION.		Pigsties.	Slaughter Houses.
	By Cocks, on Alternate Days.	By Pump and Well.	By Rain only.	Back to Back, or without Back Windows.	Bad.		
St. Giles.....	295	435	34	153	123	171	5
St. Mary	748	285	56	360	184	152	7
St. Lawrence	357	131	23	143	166	55	7
Total of Houses, &c., in the Borough....	1,400	851	113	656	473	378	19

It was not considered necessary to ascertain the number of inhabitants, except in *Courts*. In more crowded towns other districts might also be numbered.

The labour of effecting the investigation would necessarily be great, and a considerable measure of practical experience would be requisite, in any town, to render the information accurate; but when obtained, the nature of the remedy required, the amount of paving, the size of sewers, the substitution of water-closets, the value and character of the present drainage, the alterations requisite to courts and houses for ventilation, the removal of nuisances, &c., is all highly valuable; added to which some such investigation appears absolutely necessary, when *an estimate of the expense* of any proposed structural arrangements is contemplated; almost every column in the Table being serviceable for that purpose.

A highly interesting addition might be made by arranging the actual mortality, and, if possible, the sickness also, in the several districts, in the localities as they occur in the Tables; the effects of the present arrangements, and of any future improvements, could then be accurately ascertained.